Government has been requested by Central Water Commission to obtain concurrence of Government of Madhya Pradesh for inundation of areas in that State.

Purchase of Foreign Exchange for Funding the Sardar Sarovar Project

4020. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Governments propose to purchase foreign exchange worth hundreds of crores of rupees in the open market for funding the electrical equipment component of the Sardar Sarovar Project; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI V.C. SHUKLA): (a) A request to release free foreign exchange to the tune of about Rs. 500 crores during 1993-94 for funding the electrical equipment component of the Sardar Sarovar Project has been made to Department of Economic Affairs.

(b) The OECF (Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund) Loan, Japan for the Tirbo Generator sets of Sardar Sarovar Project has been suspended by them since November, 1990. This has resulted in unilateral suspension of manufacture by the Japanese firm since August, 1992. They have also raised claims for deferment of delivery schedule by levying storage escalation and interest charges for the equipment—already manufactured and the materials purchased for the equipment yet to be manufactured. In order to get the equipments released for the project and till such time the OECF (Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund) loan assistance is finally negotiated, it has been suggested in the meeting of the Sardar Sarovar the Department of Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Finance to release the requisite foreign exchange.

US Aid to Minor Irrigation Projects

4021. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Minor Irrigation Schemes are being assisted under United States aid in the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) the number of Minor Irrigation Schemes which have so far been completed or are in progress;

(d) how much United States aid amounts have so far been received and spent on Minor Irrigation Schemes in the State; and

(e) by when all the on-going Minor Irrigation Schemes are likely to be completed in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI V.C. SHUKLA): (a) to (b) Only Madhya Pradesh Minor Irrigation Project was financially assisted by the United States Agency for International Development in the State of Madhya Pradesh. The Project Assistance Completion Date for this project was 30.6.1992. The United States Agency for International Development had committed an assistance of United States. Dollar 46 million to this project, out of which United State Dollar 1.084 million was deobligated by them. Out of the balance assistance of United State Dollar 44.916 million, Dollar 41.088 million was utilised.

Schemes for Providing wells to SC/ST Farmers in Madhya Pradesh

4022. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced any scheme for providing wells on the fields of SC/ST farmers for irrigation in the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) how many SC/ST farmers are likely

to be covered under this scheme and how many of them have so far been benefited from it;

(d) whether Government propose to extend the scheme for other farmers of the State as well; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI V.C. SHUKLA): (a) to (e) Under the Million Wells Scheme (MWS) started by the Ministry of Rural Development 1988-89 and continuing as a sub-scheme of Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY) from 1989-90, open irrigation wells are provided free of cost to the poor small and marginal farmers *belonging to SC/ST and free/bonded* labourers. 20% of the total allocation of JRY is being earmarked for this scheme. Where wells are not feasible due to geological factors, the amount allocated under MWS can be utilised for other schemes of minor irrigation etc. The amount allocated under the scheme can not be diverted for any other scheme nor for category other than SCs/STs and free bonded labourers. The number of wells constructed and the expenditure incurred thereon (including expenditure incurred on other minor irrigation works and land development works) in Madhya Pradesh since 1988-89 are 81355 (upto August, 1992) and Rs. 143.90 crores (upto June, 1992) respectively.

Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) of the Ministry of Rural Development, which is under implementation since 1980-81, subsidy is given to SC/ST families for construction of tubewells/dugwells etc. at the rate of 50% of project cost with no monetary ceilings. In addition, State Governments may through their own agencies take free boring and blasting in the land of SC/ST farmers subject to monetary ceiling of Rs. five thousand. In Madhya Pradesh a total number of 1,73,000 SC/ST families (including families who were given assistance for minor irrigation) were covered under IRDP in 1991-92. Assistance for irrigation under IRDP can also be availed by non SC/ST families belonging to small and marginal farmers category and having income level below a specified cut off line. The pattern of subsidy for small farmers other than SC/ST is 25% and that for marginal farmer is 33-1/3%

Inter State Water Disputes

4023. SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring all the rivers of inter State importance under the Centre-list in the Indian Constitution;

(b) if not, what measures are under contemplation for quick settlement of inter-State river-water disputes; and

(c) whether Government propose to constitute as apex level Supreme Judicial Institution with adequate judicial powers to implement its decision on river-water disputes on utilisation between two or more States?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI V.C. SHUKLA): (a) According to Entry 56 of List-I (Union List) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, regulation and development of inter-State rivers and river valleys to the extent to which such regulation and development under the control of the Union is declared by parliament by law to be expedient in the public interest, becomes responsibility of the Central Government.

(b) Government have already enacted Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 to provide for adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter-State rivers and river valleys and River Boards Act, 1956 to provide for establishment of River Boards for the regulation and development of inter-State rivers and river valleys. A standing Committee on inter-State issues in water resources, under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Water Resources with